requirement of working capital and payment of statutory liabilities;

(b) whether constraints of working capital still exist;

(c) if so, whether any accountability has been fixed for the delay in the sale of this asset inspite of clearance from all concerned including BIFR in 1995; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY **SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT:** (a) Government approved a proposal of the Company to sell the Head Office Building in 1992.

(b) Since the Company has been incurring losses for past several years, its working capital has been eroded and consequently the Company has been facing working capital shortage.

(c) and (d) The delay has been on account of various formalities involved including consent of financial institution, Bank and permission of BIFR. BIFR gave permission in 1995 with the condition that the sale may be effected if price was expected to fall in future. Final unconditional permission was given only on 23.4.97.

Coking coal to steel industries

*169. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of coking coal from indigenous sources to the steel sector is not coping with the needs of the steel industries;

(b) if so, the total demand of coal by steel industries per month;

(c) whether poor quality coal is being supplied to steel industries causing losses; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make available good quality coal to steel industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) All India raw Coking Coal demand assessed for the year 1998-99 for steel sector is 37.70 million tonnes which works out to 3.14 million tonnes p.m. Against which the actual supply in terms of raw coking coal from CIL to steel plants during April, 1998 was 1.361 million tonnes.

(c) Ash percentage of coal supplied to steel plants is generally maintained at agreed levels.

(d) Because of depletion in reserves of good quality coking coal in the country supply of specified quality of coking coal to the washeries is getting affected. This is causing production of washed coal of somewhat inferior quality. Two washeries at Kedla (CCL) and Madhuband (BCCL) have been commissioned which would produce desired quality of washed coal from the coking coal available at present.

Wages of Organised Industrial Workers

*170. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative wage figures of organised industrial workers in developed countries, India and the Asian countries; and

(b) India's position in global wage structure in the organised sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): A statement giving the wages in Idnia, other Asian and Developed countries in the **Manufacturing sector is enclosed. (*see* below).**

2472/RS/2-B